[7th March 1947

SRI B. BHIMA RAO :—" May I know whether for any of these temporary appointments any one from the Ceded Districts has been appointed?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" I am not absolutely certain; but there must be one. I shall look into it."

K. T. M. AHMED IBRAHIM SAHIB BAHADUR :—" With reference to answer to (b) will the Hon. Minister say that there are no cases of favoured treatment in regard to granting of licences?"

THE HON. SRI V. V. GIRI :—" Certainly not, Sir."

Varagu food poisoning cases.

MR. PRESIDENT :—" Anybody authorized to put the question?"

SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" I have not been authorized; but if you permit, I shall put it."

* 79 *Q.*—SRI R. SURYANARAYANA RAO (on behalf of Lt.-Col. K. R. K. Iyengar): Will the Hon. the Minister for Motor Transport and Food be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of varagu food poisoning cases that have been reported since January 1946;

(*b*) what inevtigations have been carried out in connexion with recent outbreak at different parts of this Province;

(*c*) the measures that have been adopted to ensure that the rice issued is free from poisonous effects; and

(*d*) whether the Government propose to institute an enquiry by experts so as to control or eradicate this menace?

THE HON. SRI R. RAGHAVA MENON :—" (*a*) Since January 1946 a few cases have been reported in respect of the districts of Trichinopoly, Coimbatore, Chingleput, Ramnad and Salem, to which some varagu had been sent from the Tanjore district to meet millets scarcity. Even in 1944–45 the Collectors of Ramnad and South Arcot reported to the Commissioner of Civil Supplies that the varagu supplied to their districts was causing giddiness and vomiting to consumers.

" (*b*) & (*c*) The Assistant Entomologist, Trichinopoly, and the Millets Specialist, Coimbatore, who examined the grain in 1945 suggested some methods for avoiding the toxic effects of the grain and these methods were circularized to the Collectors concerned for giving publicity. In spite of the wide publicity given, persons in the other districts have either not been adopting the methods or are finding it difficult to adopt them successfully.

" (*d*) The Surgeon-General and the Director of Public Health have taken the matter on hand and are investigating. Pending receipt of a report from them the stocking and issue of varagu in ration shops have been prohibited. However, the issue of varagu outside the ration and its sale for use as starch and cattle feed have been permitted."